



The

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

to the

Liskeard Rural District Council

for the Year

1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

Dr. E. S. TOOGOOD .. Golden Bank, Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part - time
District Medical Officers and/or as Public Vaccinators—

Dr. A. G. AITKEN	...	...	...	Callington.
Dr. W. H. KING	...	...	...	Fowey.
Dr. A. McCLOY	...	...	...	Polperro.
Dr. B. B. METCALFE	...	...	...	Liskeard.
Dr. L. MORAN	...	...	...	Looe.
Dr. O. R. SMALE	...	...	...	Pensilva.

Sanitary Inspector Meat and Food Inspector Milk and Dairy Inspector Building Surveyor	{	Mr. G. ROGERS, A.R.S.I., Liskeard.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Liskeard Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my ANNUAL REPORT on the Health of the Rural District of Liskeard for 1938. The year can be regarded as very satisfactory from almost every point of view.

The number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases was lower than the year before. The chief of these were Pneumonia and Scarlet Fever, there being ten cases of each. The former occurred in the first half of the year, whilst the latter were spread uniformly over the whole period.

There was no Epidemic and the health of the School children was good over the whole district.

Unemployment showed a marked improvement, being certainly twenty-five per cent. better than in the previous year.

Last year there was no employable farm labourer out of work. Many whose work had hitherto been that of farm labouring took advantage of the many County Council schemes in progress in and near the district.

The Liskeard Division of the St. John Ambulance Association has continued its good work. The members are always ready to attend to any accident or emergency--day or night, and although there is a nominal charge per mile for the use of the Ambulance, the service of the men and women members is entirely voluntary. They keep themselves proficient in First Aid and Home Nursing by practices every week, and a yearly examination. It is a very great privilege to have their services, and the whole district owes them a debt of gratitude.

The District Nursing in the Rural District has fully maintained the high standard of previous years, in fact I can, from personal experience, say that as each year passes, the work done by all our District Nurses in all sorts of conditions and weathers rises to higher standards. The Nursing Associations should be supported by everyone in the Rural District.

The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital has received patients from almost every part of our district. We are indeed fortunate in having such an up-to-date and well managed hospital, to serve our area.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of the District	...	...	104,851 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Midsummer, 1938)	...	...	13,280
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1938 according to Rate Books	...	...	4,670
Rateable Value of the District	...	...	£35,196
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£158

Social Conditions.

There are no industries in the Rural District which are prejudicial to public health. Agriculture and Dairy farming are carried on extensively, and both these ensure a healthy outdoor life for those engaged in them.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	168	84	84
Illegitimate	... ..	12	4	8
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	... ..	...	...	13.53
Birth-rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.1
STILL BIRTHS—		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	5	3	2
Illegitimate	... ..	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	27.07
DEATHS—		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
...	...	185	95	90
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	... ..	...	...	13.93
Death-rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.6
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—				
Puerperal Sepsis	... ..	0	0	0
Other Puerperal causes	..	0	0	0
DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—				
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	27.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	..	...	...	17.85
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	... ..	...	...	166.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	25
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

Chief Causes of Death.

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Influenza	..	...	4	4	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	6	3	3
Diabetes	...	...	4	0	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	7	2	5
Heart Diseases	...	...	60	35	25
Other Circulatory Diseases...			12	4	8
Bronchitis	...	...	12	7	5
Pneumonia	...	...	6	3	3
Peptic Ulcer	..	...	1	1	0
Appendicitis	...	...	1	1	0
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	..	...	3	1	2
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)			8	3	5
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	..	...	4	3	1
Senility	...	...	3	1	2
Suicide	...	..	3	1	2
Other Violence	...	...	7	6	1
Other Defined Diseases	..	...	14	7	7
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			2	2	0

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

**England and Wales,
London,
126 Great Towns and
148 Smaller Towns.**

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births				
Live	15. 1	15. 0	15.4	13.4
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
Deaths				
All Causes	11. 6	11. 7	11. 0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	00.0	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Notifications				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs of age	5. 5	7. 8	3. 6	13. 1
Maternal Mortality				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	} Not available.		
Others	2.19			
Total	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	} Not available.		
Others	2.11			
Total	2.97			
Notifications				
Puerperal fever	}	18.08	12.51	{ 3.53
Puerperal pyrexia				
	14.22			15.46

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) MEDICAL—

Medical Officer of Health—

Dr. E. S. Toogood, Golden Bank, Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or as Public Vaccinators:—

Dr. A. G. Aitken	...	...	Callington.
Dr. W. H. King	...	...	Fowey.
Dr. A. McCloy	...	...	Polperro.
Dr. B. B. Metcalfe	...	...	Liskeard.
Dr. L. Moran	...	...	Looe.
Dr. O. R. Smale	...	...	Pensilva.

Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth, undertakes the pathological examination of material submitted.

County Tuberculosis Officer—Dr. Day,
County Hall, Truro.

(b) OTHERS—

Sanitary Inspector	}	Mr. G. Rogers, A.R.S.I., Liskeard.
Meat and Food Inspector		
Milk and Dairy Inspector		
Building Surveyor		

Public Analysts of Water—

(a) Chemical, Messrs. Benedict Kitto & Sons, London.

(b) Bacteriological, Mr. Wm. Partridge, Holborn, London.

A. Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in the arrangements for the examination and analysis of clinical material, water, milk and foodstuffs.

Milk and pathological examinations are carried out by Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth. Foodstuffs by the County Analyst.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

During 1938 a new Ambulance was purchased and put into commission by the Liskeard Division of the St. John Ambulance Association. The service that this division renders to the local community, including the Rural District, is inestimable. The Ambulance work is entirely voluntary and no praise or gratitude can be too high for their splendid service.

The total number of cases dealt with during 1938 was 342, and a total mileage of 6460 was covered.

First aid was rendered in 50 cases.

The Women's Division supply nurses to accompany female cases as and when they are required.

C. Nursing in the Home.

General Home Nursing and Midwifery is undertaken by District Nurses. Practically the whole of the Rural District is covered by Local Nursing Associations. These Associations, in conjunction with the Cornwall County Council, provide Nurses who hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Everyone in the Rural District is urged to join the Nursing Association of the district in which he resides. The work of the Nurses in the Rural District is of a very high standard, and it is with pleasure that I record a very excellent and satisfactory year's work.

Infectious.

The District Nurses are forbidden to undertake the nursing of Infectious Diseases, and, except in cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia, there is no provision whatever for nursing infectious cases. The Cornwall County Council may be approached with a view to supplying Nurses for the Puerperal cases mentioned above. Application should be made by the Medical Attendant who is in charge of the case.

D. Clinic and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been opened in the Rural District during 1938.

E. Hospitals.

PUBLIC.—The Public Assistance Hospital, situated in the Borough of Liskeard, receives cases from the Rural District of Liskeard and elsewhere.

VOLUNTARY.—The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital, also situated in the Borough of Liskeard, has been used extensively by the inhabitants of the Rural District. This hospital contains 27 beds (12 general—4 male and 8 female), 5 private wards, 3 emergency beds and 7 cots.

The patients treated at this hospital during 1938 was 310 as compared with 298 for the previous year. There were 300 out-patients. 146 operations were carried out under anæsthetics.

In-patients were admitted from the following places in the Rural District during 1938 :—

Liskeard Parish R.D., Dobwalls, Doublebois, East Taphouse, St. Pinnock, Boconnoc and Braddoc, St. Neot, St. Veep, Minions, Upton Cross, Pensilva, Linkinhorne, Callington, St. Cleer and Tremar Coombe, Rilla Mill, North Hill, Bye-Lane-End, Merrymeet, St. Ive, Menheniot, Duloe, St. Keyne, Pelynt, Morval, Sandplace, Lanreath.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water.

Progress has been made in the preparation of schemes for the following Villages :—Pensilva, Dobwalls, Pelynt, Pengover and Merrymeet, and regular gaugings of the various springs and streams, proposed to be utilised, have been taken.

Difficulties have been experienced both as regards quantity of flow and means of raising the water to a sufficient height above the various villages, but it is hoped to overcome these in due course.

It is considered likely that the cost of most of these schemes will be such that without financial assistance, a great burden will be placed upon the consumers in the various villages.

A Preliminary Report was made to the Council on a District Water Scheme, in which water could be collected from one source, in the Parish of St. Cleer, and piped to every parish

and village in the Rural District, at an estimated cost of £79,336. After consideration it was decided to communicate with the Ministry of Health and the County Council for financial assistance. In due course the Council was informed that grants were not available, and the scheme was not proceeded with further.

An extension of the Tremar Coombe Water Main to Sun Cottages, in the Parish of St. Cleer, was carried out during the year. No scheme or other important extension was undertaken although the works at Polperro, Killigarth, St. Neot and St. Cleer continued to provide an adequate supply to these villages.

The supply at Polruan, whilst not being entirely satisfactory did not give rise to acute shortage during the summer of 1938.

A new pump and 290 feet of suction pipe was provided in the village of Lansallos in order to provide water at a more convenient point.

Sixteen samples of water were collected and analysed during 1938.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The most important work under this section in hand during 1938 was the Polperro Sewerage scheme, the tender accepted for the work being £6,422 10s. 7d. The work was commenced in February and was continued throughout the year. Whilst good progress was made in the laying of sewers and branches in the main streets, the construction of the tunnel and the outfall works was delayed by weather and tides. It is expected that the sewers will be in use early in 1939.

At Pensilva, in the Parish of St. Ive, 334 feet of 6in. sewer was laid and a septic chamber provided to deal with the effluent. A nuisance of long standing was thus abated.

At Widegates, in the Parish of Morval, a septic tank was provided for the same reason.

All other sewerage schemes in the district have been properly supervised and have functioned satisfactorily.

(iii) Public Conveniences.

At Polperro, a new public convenience was constructed at the Quay, at a cost of £400 4s. 11d., by direct labour. This proved a saving of £72, and is of very satisfactory construction.

At Polruan, the old men's convenience on the Quay was modernised and converted into a ladies' convenience and a new men's convenience erected nearby. The water supply during

summer months is derived from a well at the foot of Fore Street and consequently is not a drain on the not over-abundant water supply. The provision of the ladies' section was most urgently needed, there being previously no other on the Polruan side of the river.

2. Rivers and Streams Pollution.

The provision of septic tanks and percolating chambers to receive drainage where no sewers are provided, has greatly reduced the possibilities of non-tidal rivers becoming polluted. In addition, the absence of large factories in the district, provides another reason why such streams remain comparatively unpolluted.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under this heading.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

The provision of water closets is naturally governed to a large extent by the proximity of sewers to the buildings concerned. In several cases, however, where no sewers are available, water closets have been installed with the septic tank system.

At Polperro, where a sewerage system is being constructed, at least fifty water closets have already been installed, these taking the place of pail closets and privies.

In the more rural parts of the district, the usual closet is of the pail type, and these, when properly looked after, prove quite satisfactory.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The only alteration in the collection of public refuse in the district since the previous year was at Polperro, where the scavenger was employed full time, all the year round, instead of full time during the summer months and part time during the winter.

The methods of refuse collection in the district are as follows :—

Polruan	..	By contract, full time.
Bodinnick	...	By contract, part time.
Whitecross	...	By contract, part time.
Polperro	..	By contract, full time.
Menheniot	...	Monthly collections.
Merrymeet	...	Quarterly collections.
Pengover	...	Quarterly collections.
Pensilva	..	Monthly collections.
Dobwalls	...	Monthly collections.
Doublebois	...	Monthly collections.

During the year efforts were made to collect some of the refuse which had accumulated in various parts of the parish of St. Cleer, and several loads were removed from the moors and small lanes and deposited on the dump.

It is expected that the Council will consider the question of the periodic collection of refuse from the villages in the St. Cleer parish during the coming year.

A scheme for the general collection of refuse throughout the district was considered by the Council early in the year. The scheme was favoured for its comprehensiveness, but unfortunately the cost was considered to be too high and it was eventually deferred for some future consideration.

(iii) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

The inspection of houses suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes was continued throughout the year and a number of Preliminary and Statutory notices were served on owners, indicating the repairs necessary to make the various premises in a reasonable state of repair.

The living and sleeping rooms of the cottages inspected were measured to ascertain the extent of overcrowding existing.

All complaints relating to nuisances were investigated and action taken where necessary.

All slaughter-houses in the district have been regularly inspected and have, in most cases, been kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

The inspection of farm premises, cowsheds and dairies has been continued and a decided improvement has been effected in the methods and conditions under which milk is produced.

Details of the various inspections and work carried out are contained in the following tables :—

1.	Number of Inspections of dwelling houses	...	196
2.	Number of Informal Notices issued	...	59
3.	Number of Statutory Notices issued	...	6
4.	Notices complied with (others receiving attention)		27
5.	Nuisances abated	...	11
6.	Premises made fit	...	29
7.	Number of defects remedied in 5 and 6	...	105
8.	Number of new water closets erected	...	120
9.	Privies converted to pail or earth closets	...	33
10.	Number of private wells cleaned and repaired	...	15
11.	Number of samples of water analysed	...	16

(iv) Shops and Offices.

Inspections of shops were made under the Shops Act, 1934, but no statutory action was found necessary.

(v) Camping Sites.

A considerable amount of camping is carried on in the district during the months of July, August and September, and the sites are generally satisfactory as regards water and sanitary accommodation. The Council has laid down certain conditions governing sanitary accommodation, water supply, refuse disposal, etc., but these only apply to licensed and not to the occasional sites. No camping license is granted unless these conditions are complied with satisfactorily.

Many sites are used for less than 42 consecutive days or 60 days in any one year and therefore are not required to be licensed. No record of the number of these sites is available.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 (estimated) ... | 50 |
| 2. Number of camping sites in respect of which licenses have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 ... | 14 |
| 3. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season | 200 |

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in connection with smoke abatement during 1938.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There has been no action under this heading during the year.

4. Schools.

A considerable improvement has been effected at the School at Polperro, in connection with the sanitary accommodation. The pail closets have been abolished and water closets installed. This has been carried out as the result of the new sewer which is being constructed.

There are other schools in the district which unfortunately have pail closets only, and where water closets would be of great advantage, but until sewers and a piped water supply are provided, this change will not be practicable.

Factories.

1. Inspection of Factories,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices.</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i>
Factories (with mechanical power)	6	0	0
Factories (without mechanical power)	20	1	0
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	16	1	0
Total	42	2	0

2. Defects found.

Number of Defects in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted ... 0

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Number of Defects.</i>		
	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</i>
Want of Cleanliness (s.1) ...	1	1	0
Overcrowding (s.2)	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature (s.3)	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation (s.4)	0	0	0
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (s.6)	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)—			
Insufficient	1	1	0
Unsuitable or Defective ...	0	0	0
Not Separate for Sexes ...	0	0	0
Total	2	2	0

3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

NIL.

*Section D.***Housing.**

During 1938, the Council erected in various parishes a total of 30 Council Houses in order to meet the needs of the working classes in the district. Of these, tenders for six were accepted during the year, whilst the remaining 24 were accepted in 1937.

Only one case of overcrowding under the standard laid down by the Housing Act, 1936, existed at the end of 1938, and this being a case of an unusually large family difficulty was experienced in providing a house with sufficient rooms. It is intended to erect a special Council House which will meet the case, and which when no longer required can be converted into two houses of four bedrooms each.

The inspection and measuring of private houses of a type suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes, has been continued, and where the defects are noted, preliminary notices are served on the owners indicating the repairs necessary.

On request of any owner, the permitted number relating to any cottage is given.

Under the Housing Rural Workers Act, continued progress has been made.

Twenty-one new applications for financial assistance were made during 1938, of which 19 were approved.

Thirty - one schemes for re - construction were completed during the year, involving grants of £3,100.

The total number of houses re-conditioned under the Act up to the end of 1938 was 229, and has been the means of improving the general housing conditions of the working classes throughout the whole district to a considerable extent.

The erection of private houses has continued throughout the year, and a total of 38 plans were approved. 21 new private houses were completed during the period under review.

The fact that building in the area within one mile of the coast is controlled by the East Cornwall Joint Planning Committee, has prevented the erection of unsightly buildings and huts, which otherwise would disfigure the coastline. It is to be regretted that the same control is not applied in the remainder of the district, where, although building works are not so extensive, yet the erection of a few buildings, foreign to the locality, often mar an otherwise pleasing landscape.

1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—</i>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	196
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	223
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	195
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	221
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	59
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	27
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>	
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	58
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	26
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses regarding which a Clearance Order has been confirmed by the Ministry of Health	5
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...				1
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				12
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	0
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	0
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...				0
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	0
(e)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...				0

*Section E.***Inspection and Supervision of Food.****(a) Milk Supply.**

Applications to be registered as retail and wholesale producers of milk were regularly received, and inspections were carried out of the dairies and cowsheds concerned. Many of the inspections were made in connection with the special Designations Order where application had been made to the County Council for Accredited Licenses. Visits were made to the various premises with an official from the appropriate department of the County Council and it was, by this means, possible to suggest jointly, the works of improvement which would be necessary in order to qualify for the Accredited License.

Although there is, in many cases, room for improvement in the methods of production of milk, it can be said that during recent years, the education of the milk producer in modern hygiene methods and the improved condition of the premises has done much to make clean milk possible.

The production of a safe milk is another problem and the eradication of Tuberculosis from dairy herds will have to be dealt with seriously, if a safe food is to be produced. As long as poultry are allowed to be kept and fed in pastures used by dairy cows—avian tuberculosis will, in all probability, be passed on to the animals and as long as breeding is permitted from animals known to be tuberculin reactors, milk cannot be regarded as safe. The cleaning up of herds as far as tuberculosis is concerned, is an enormous and costly problem and any scheme to deal with it must include a form of compensation to the owners of animals compulsorily segregated.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Twenty-four applications were received in March, 1938, for the annual renewal of slaughter house licenses and all were granted. Regular inspections of the premises were made during the year and generally they were kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

The inspection of animals slaughtered for food in the Rural District has been carried out as extensively as possible but it has been quite impossible to inspect more than a small percentage of the animals slaughtered, owing to the number of private slaughter houses in use at the same time, and, the scattered nature of the district.

Centralised slaughtering seems to be the only practical method of ensuring a regular inspection of meat and is a system which should be considered generally throughout the country.

During 1938 there has been less occasional slaughtering, owing to a large number of live pigs having been despatched to the bacon factories.

Every emergency slaughter has been notified and every such animal inspected. Wherever a slaughterman or butcher in the course of his work has observed any unusual condition in a carcase, a notification is sent to the office and the carcase inspected.

The number of animals slaughtered in the District which are found in any way unfit for food is very small and without doubt the meat consumed is generally of a good quality.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the proportion of unsound meat found.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

		<i>Cattle including Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
	...	not known	not known	not known	not known
Number killed (if known)	...				
Number inspected	...	44	26	47	479
All diseases except tuberculosis—					
whole carcasses condemned	...	0	0	2	1
Carcasses of which some part or					
organ was condemned	...	0	0	1	0
Percentage of the number inspected					
affected with disease other than					
tuberculosis	... ..	—	—	6.4%	.2%
<hr/>					
TUBERCULOSIS only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or					
organ was condemned	...	2	0	0	21
Percentage of the number in-					
spected affected with tubercu-					
losis	... ..	4.5%	—	—	4.4%

There is no meat marking scheme under Part iii of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in force in the district.

Little or no improvement has been observed in the handling of bread, cakes and similar goods, and dangers of contamination occurring, are obvious. The wrapping of such goods, sold from horse vans, etc., from door to door, should be made compulsory.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the following :—

The Food and Drugs Act, 1928

The Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.

The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.

The Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in food) Regulations, 1925 and 1927.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

All Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food that may be necessary are carried out by the County Analyst.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

So far as the prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases is concerned, 1938 can be considered as very satisfactory. Only 32 cases were reported, including 8 of all forms of Tuberculosis.

Ten cases of Pneumonia occurred in the first half of the year, and the ten cases of Scarlet Fever were more uniformly spread over the whole period under review. We had no serious outbreaks of any sort in the Schools, and the general health of the Rural District was good.

We have no Isolation Hospital should an epidemic occur, and the most that it is possible to do at present, immediately an infectious case is notified, is to supply each household with detailed instructions as to personal protection and house isolation.

The Medical Officer of Health receives each week during any epidemic in the schools of the area, reports from the head teachers, stating the nature of the epidemic, the number of scholars affected, and the number excluded as contacts. Far more use than is possible at present could be made of these reports if full isolation facilities were available.

In spite of advice previously given, I have had no requests for artificial immunization against Diphtheria nor has any use been made of Measles serum for the prophylaxis or attenuation of the Disease.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	..	10	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	2	0	0
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)			0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia			2	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	10	1	6

An Analysis of the Total Notified Cases under Age Groups.

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-& over	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	10
Diphtheria	...	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia	...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	4	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
15 ...	2	2	—	—	...	1	—	—
25 ...	—	1	—	1	...	2	1	—
35 ...	1	1	—	—	...	1	1	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	...	2	—	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
and upwards								
Totals	3	4	—	1	...	5	3	—

The County Tuberculosis Officer is always available for consultation with the doctor concerned. Pathological specimens are examined and a diagnostic X-ray plant is in use at Tehidy Sanatorium. The County Tuberculosis Officer attends each month at Lamellion House, Liskeard, for the periodic survey of cases in the area and also to see any ambulatory fresh cases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. S. TOOGOOD, M.A. Oxon, M.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

Golden Bank, Liskeard.

